



2508 Washington Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## *Advent Worship at Calvary*

Advent is a season of waiting. Advent is a season of longing for the hope, peace, love, and joy of the birth of our Savior. For Calvary, this year, Advent is also a season of "Everything Becoming New". With Pastor Genelle taking her leave, and Pastor Susan joining us, we all, congregationally and personally, need to focus on how we are becoming new. We continue to strongly encourage mask wearing in our building to show our love to our neighbors and to do our part to mitigate Covid in our region.

On Sundays, we will continue to worship at 8:30 am (traditional, and livestreamed/recorded) and 10:00 am (contemporary). We will be digging into how God makes us new in our world (Ezekiel 37:1-14), in our communities (Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14), and within ourselves (Isaiah 55:1-13) as we move towards the celebration of Jesus' birth.

On Wednesdays, we will be worship with the Holden Evening Prayer service at 6:30 pm (also livestreamed/recorded) and be blessed by hearing adult statements of faith from members of our congregation.

Christmas Eve, December 24, we will be worshipping at three times throughout the day (all also livestreamed/recorded). Our 3:30 pm service will be friendly to all, but especially for families with younger children. We will celebrate the sacrament of baptism and the service will be a bit shorter than the later services. Our 5:30 and 8:00 pm services will both include Holy Communion and candlelight as we welcome our Savior into our world and our lives.

On Wednesday, December 22, we will worship together by having a Christmas Hymn-Sing (also livestreamed/recorded).

On Sunday, December 26, Calvary will be offering one worship service at 8:30 (also livestreamed/recorded). This will be a time of Christmas celebration and hymns.

Wednesday, December 29 there will be NO WORSHIP, as the staff and the building take a well-needed rest. Christmas blessings to you all!

### *Blue Christmas Service*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 5:00-6:00 PM**

Feeling weary this Christmas season? Join us on Sunday, December 19 from 5:00-6:00 pm at Calvary for a Blue Christmas service. This will be an opportunity to recognize the hardship of facing the usually merry holiday season when you are facing grief, loss, and difficult times. Our service will include reflective and interactive stations as well as liturgy to offer consolation and hope. Contact Erin at (813) 417-7678 for more information.



## Welcome, Pastor Susan Tjornehoj

Pastor Susan Tjornehoj (pronounced "churn a hoy," thanks to my Danish immigrant grandpa!) grew up in Colorado, a preacher's kid, along the Front Range of the Rockies. After graduating from Luther College, beginning seminary at PLTS in Berkeley and finishing



at Luther Seminary, she was married and ordained on the same day, to the coolest guy, David Wangaard. Together they headed up to Alaska to serve north of Nome. They left Alaska to serve in a 3-point parish in Baudette, MN. Pastor Susan has served on bishop's staffs in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, and Minneapolis Area Synod as Assistant or Director of Evangelical Mission. She and Dave raised their daughter Ingrid Grace in the Como Park neighborhood of St. Paul. While there, they both served, though at different times, as lead Pastor of Christ Lutheran on Capitol. Since 2012, Susan has been the Senior Pastor of Christ Lutheran in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Maryland. After entering into an extended sabbatical (also called retirement), Pastor Susan has been delighted to be the bridge senior pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran in Fergus Falls and most recently took a 5-week missional plunge into the wonder of six congregations around the towns of Gary and Bejou, MacIntosh, and Winger.

What a privilege to be invited into your mission and ministry here at Calvary! It is humbling to enter into your time of grieving after saying goodbye to your beloved Pastor Genelle (and other staff and pastors in recent years); For my family to uproot from our home in Baltimore, and once again become residents of the great state of Minnesota, and to imagine together the exciting mission God has for you at Calvary in the coming days and months and years. I can't wait to meet you, to hear your stories, to work with your gifted council leaders, and partner with an amazing staff! As you love your Senior Pastor into her next chapter, I continue to pray for you as I pack boxes and figure out how to fit a year's-worth of life into two cars.

Dave and I plan to arrive December 3<sup>rd</sup> and worship with you on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Your wisdom, your prayers, and your patience will be a pure gift as we navigate this new city and incredible congregation called Calvary.

With anticipation and expectant hope in this time of Light,  
Pastor Susan Tjornehoj

## Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

Calvary community members are invited to serve our community by bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Lueken's South. If you are interested, please sign up on the poster in the gathering area or call Glen Anderson at (218)444-8260 or (218)556-0181. All are welcome! You can stand or sit, just be sure to bring some holiday cheer! Ringing begins on November 24 and ends December 24.



## Zoom Coffee Fellowship

Come and connect through zoom after our 8:30 am service! Lay leaders will facilitate conversation to help you feel and stay connected to others far and wide! Please call the church office during the week if you need help to join this meeting! Don't be shy! This is a great way to visit with known and not-yet-known members of our congregation.

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 881 5183 2779 Passcode: CLC

Another easy way to do it is to go to our website, [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org), and click on the 'Coffee Zoom Fellowship' button. Fill out the registration and submit. You will see a thank you page with the link to the zoom meeting, click on it, and you will get there!

If you are worshipping livestream with us and you would like to receive the Zoom information by email or text, let us know in the chat or by texting (218)308-9919.

## Virtual Angel Tree

It's that time of year again when we are Christmas gift shopping for our loved ones! Unfortunately, there are many in our community that struggle to provide gifts for their families. You can help these families by participating in our virtual Angel Tree gift program. Visit <https://signup.com/go/gJdmZxb>, or go to our website and click on the '2021 Angel' Tree button and select someone to give a gift to from the list. Choose one or more people to gift and go shopping. All gifts must be put in gift bag, unwrapped, clearly labeled with the assigned code, and turned into the church office by December 19. Check out the Angel Tree display in the gathering area and grab an angel to use as a label for your gift!



## Advent Centering Prayer

In order to prepare for the birth of the Christ child, you are invited to come for centering prayer, led by Pastor Ron Gladen. Centering prayer is a form of contemplative prayer that is rooted in the Christian tradition and the wisdom saying of Jesus, "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to God in secret. And God, who sees in secret, will repay you" (Matthew 6:6). Join us Wednesdays during Advent, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 4:00-5:00 pm in Room 1. All are welcome!

## Grief Share

If you or someone you know is dealing with grief, GriefShare may be helpful for you! Erin Kossivi leads a GriefShare group at Calvary Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in Room 1. If you have questions or would like more information, you can contact Erin at 813-417-7678. No preregistration is necessary, all are welcome to join in the conversation as we journey together.

## Christmas Holiday

Our Calvary staff and building will be taking a much needed rest the week between Christmas and New Years. The office and building will be closed Monday, December 27 to Friday, December 31. Christmas blessings from all of us to all of you!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER ~ VILLAGE OF HOPE

Calvary cares about homelessness and families, so Village of Hope is a natural partner, especially in these cold winter months.



Village of Hope, a family shelter located in downtown Bemidji, "promotes self worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness." The team of advocates there provides a spectrum of essential services to children and families.

We're grateful for the work of this organization in our region, and we welcome the chance to support them. Remember: Our partnerships are about more than just money. The Bemidji community needs your voices, ideas, and support as we work together to consider the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. You can get involved by talking to Sandy Hennem at Village of Hope, (218)751-0722.

You can give to our Second Offering ministry partners through RebelGive or by check. In order to help with record keeping, we ask that ALL checks be made out to Calvary Lutheran, with the name of the mission partner (example: "Village of Hope") written in the memo line.

### CALVARY'S 2ND OFFERING TREASURE CHEST

For God's Treasure Chest this December, we are looking for socks, both men's and women's gloves, and laundry soap.

## New Preschool Director - Tony Kerr

Hello Calvary Family. My name is Tony Kerr. I have been a member of Calvary for twenty years or more and some of you may recognize me from my work on the Praise Team. I have been involved in education for twenty years from teaching to administration, in levels from preschool through college. I hold a Bachelors of Science in Music and K-12 Education, a Masters of Arts in Education Leadership, a Specialist Degree in School Administration and another Specialist Degree in Organizational Leadership. I started my education leadership position in Red Lake as the Principal at St. Mary's Mission school. From there I moved around the area leading schools through certain challenges and tasks before realizing I was chasing around for bigger positions and all the time losing focus on what was really important, serving God. The position for the Calvary Preschool Director came to my attention, and with prayer, discussions with my family, and a few calls to some friends, I decided to apply for this position, and by grace, was selected to serve. My draw to the position was that we are a Christ focused family, and that IS the priority, above all! I am excited to serve the Calvary community, to help and support our children, families and staff, and to serve God in a new way. My family and I live in Bemidji, have been students and families of Calvary's Preschool programs, we have been married here, baptized here, and continue to serve in new and exciting capacities as our family grows here. This opportunity is a gift as I am now able to serve in a more intensive capacity. My office door will always be open, I will listen, serve, and lead as Calvary sees fit, all the while, keeping the focus of the programs on God.



Respectfully, and in Christ,  
Tony Kerr

## Calvary Preschool Staffing Needs!

Stop, right now! Spend a few minutes thinking if you know anyone that would be a good fit to join our team! Calvary's Preschool is in desperate need of staff to fill several positions. If you, or someone you know is interested in working here, please let us know! Visit our website employment page for job descriptions and apply today! Please contact the church office with any questions.



## Amazon Smile

We have received \$335.94 in donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation in the last year. These donations are as a result of AmazonSmile program and AmazonSmile users. If you shop online, please consider shopping at smile.amazon.com, designate Calvary as your charity, and Amazon will donate to Calvary!

## 2021 Year End Giving

With the end of the year approaching, it's time to consider the year-end donations you wish to make. To receive credit for your 2021 taxes, please ensure that your donation is provided to Calvary by the end of December. Mail in offerings must be postmarked no later than December 31, and online donations through RebelGive must be made by December 31. Thank you for financially supporting our ministry. We are church together!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### 12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022

October	Income	YTD	Expense	YTD
General Fund	\$98,740	\$265,630	\$85,471	\$224,824

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$8,500)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$381,314

October Ministry Partner: Lutheran Campus Ministry \$1,049.25

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$51,599

Offering needed each week to support the budget is \$15,000.

See Calvary's December Birthdays Here!

[View this newsletter on the web and follow this link to see who to wish a happy birthday this month!](#)

## Getting to Know Council Member at Large ~ Mitch Eickman

Hello Calvary! My name is Mitch Eickman and I am in my third year as an At-Large member of the council. My wife, Adrienne, and our two kids Maren and Gavin, have been members at Calvary since 2012. I joined the council to get a better understanding of how decisions are made, and in particular, have a passion for how we are ministering to families in our community. It has been an enlightening few years! Like most, I am grieving the loss of the irreplaceable Pastor Genelle. I invite everyone to take this Advent season to reflect well and be well. Let's reflect well on the past twenty years of Pastor Genelle's service at Calvary. Let's be well with family and friends and celebrate the event that changed everything: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And in January, let's be ready to Explore the future. We have been blessed to accept Pastor Sue as our Interim Senior Pastor and I am excited to explore the future and implement change for our church. It is my hope that as we Explore our church's place in a changing world, we will have everyone's input and involvement in planning our next steps. Have a blessed Advent!



## From the Council President

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PASTOR LEAVES?

We haven't experienced a pastor resigning and staying in the area, so we've received questions about what happens. When a pastor leaves their Call to a congregation, they are released from their duties of pastoral work for that congregation. For us, this means that Pastor Genelle will no longer baptize, marry, bury, or provide pastoral services for us. It is important for the well-being of our congregation and our future ministry that we respect this boundary and not ask Pastor Genelle to do these things for us just because we've known her for so long. As a congregation, we prepare ourselves to move our ministry forward with the Pastoral staff that will be here, while Pastor Genelle prepares herself to fully take her role on the Bishop's staff. The Netlands will continue to live in the area, with Chad and the kids continuing to worship and attend activities here, but Pastor Genelle's membership here has ended along with her call so she will no longer attend Calvary on a regular basis. We will see her in the community as our friend, but no longer our pastor. If you have any further questions about how to navigate this, please reach out to Pastor Susan or Pastor Jeremiah in the church office, or a Council Member. Peace to you, Nicholle Bieberdorf

## Vicar's Viewpoints

Hey everybody, Vicar Jami here! In the remaining months of my internship at Calvary Lutheran, I wanted to include a brief segment in the newsletter to share updates on my learning and growing and have an opportunity to connect with you all more. This month, I was blessed to have an opportunity to preach on a topic I am very passionate about – mental health. It was very heartwarming to hear from many of you who resonated with this message through personal struggles with mental health. I have also successfully completed a fundraiser for next year's mission trip to Philadelphia, PA, which I will be leading! Working with Jen's Wreaths, facilitating orders, counting the money, and organizing the wreath delivery has been a very new experience for me that I've found incredibly rewarding. I cannot wait to see the fruits of this labor pay off next July for the high schoolers! I have also been working closely with Pastor Jeremiah to prepare a thematic series for Advent based on our theme for the year: "Making All Things New." I look forward to sharing in the excitement and scariness newness brings as we journey together through Advent these coming weeks.

Speaking of "Making All Things New," I have had a unique internship experience in navigating Pastor Genelle's new calling. It has been challenging for me to process, as I'm sure it has been for many of you as well – especially those who have known Genelle much longer than I have. But I am encouraged in continuing to learn how God works through transition and calling. Calvary will be fine, I will be fine, Genelle will be fine, and God will be with all of us through the mixed feelings we are all experiencing. I'm hopeful that Advent will be a time of lament and celebration for us all as we look towards Pastor Susan's year with us and all the exciting and wonderful ministry that will continue to take place at Calvary.

I give thanks to God for you all – for this church, for this community, and for making me feel at home and well taken care of as an intern. And I can't wait to experience all that is to come in the new year. Until next time, peace and blessings, Vicar Jami!

## Theology Book Club

Calvary's Theology book club continues reading and discussing *Where God Meets Man* by Gerhard Forde. We gather on Zoom the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. All are welcome, let's explore our faith together! Contact Becky Berquist for more information at [bergquistbecky@gmail.com](mailto:bergquistbecky@gmail.com).

## From Former Pastor Andrew

Dear friends, Meredith, Bea, and I have welcomed a new family member! Hans Martin Ronnevik (20 inches: 6lbs, 15 oz) was born at 5:27 am on November 10. Everyone is doing well, and Bea, as you can see, is happy to be a big sister. Peace, Andrew



## From Nellie, With Love

Calvary member Nellie Withoff (pictured here) would like to thank Calvary for their thoughts and prayers for her health. She also thanks the Calvary Crafters for their gift of a prayer shawl. Things like prayers and a shawl may seem small and insignificant, but they mean so much to folks like Nellie, who are sick and in need of comfort. You can help Calvary make an impact for others in our community by joining the Prayer Chain. Please contact Pr. Jeremiah ([revholst@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org)) to sign up. The Calvary Crafters are on hiatus for the winter, but you are welcome to join them in the spring. Please contact Cheryl Colford ([cherubs@paulbunyan.net](mailto:cherubs@paulbunyan.net)) if you want to be a crafter.

